

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 01110 182247Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 1110

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PP
SUBJECT: BY-ELECTION RESULTS - GOVERNMENT LOSES
TWO SEATS

REF: PORT MORESBY 0992

1. SUMMARY: PANGU PATI, PAPUA BESENA AND UNITED PARTY EACH
TOOK A SEAT IN THREE PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTIONS JUST COMPLETED.
THESE CONTESTS COMPLETE THE TASK OF FILLING SIX VACANT SEATS
IN PARLIAMENT. WHILE NO SIGNIFICANT NEW TREND EMERGED,
PEOPLES PROGRESS PARTY LOST TWO SEATS IT FORMERLY HELD,
THUS REDUCING THE GOVERNMENT'S MAJORITY SLIGHTLY. END
SUMMARY.

2. REFTEL REPORTED ON THREE OF SIX PARLIAMENTARY BY-
ELECTIONS CALLED EITHER BY COURT OF DISPUTED RETURNS OR
BECAUSE OF DEATH OF INCUMBENT. RETURNS FROM LAST THREE
CONTESTS, WHICH COMPLETE PROCESS OF FILLING ALL VACANT
SEATS, JUST ANNOUNCED. FORMER SECRETARY OF JUSTICE
JOSEPH AOA, AN EXCEPTIONALLY ABLE LAWYER AND
PUBLIC SERVANT, CAPTURED THE KAIRUKU-HIRI SEAT FORMERLY
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PAGE 02 PORT M 01110 182247Z

HELD BY EX-PPP POLICE MINISTER JOHN POE. AOA RAN UNDER
AEGIS OF PAPUA BESENA. NEVILLE BOURNE AN AMERICAN
MISSIONARY NATURALIZED A PNG CITIZEN IN 1976, WON THE
MENYAMYA OPEN IN MOROBE PROVINCE ON THE PANGU TICKET.
THIS SEAT, ALSO, HAD BEEN HELD BY PPP. THE THIRD SEAT
AT STAKE, KOROBA-LAKE KOPIAGO, WAS WON AGAIN BY PAIALE
ELO OF UNITED PARTY.

3. THE SIX BY-ELECTIONS HAVE THUS RESULTED IN A NET GAIN OF TWO SEATS FOR PAPUA BESENA, AND A NET LOSS OF TWO SEATS FOR PPP. OVERALL REPRESENTATION OF OTHER PARTIES REMAINED UNCHANGED. PAPUA BESENA ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED ITS STRENGTH ON PAPUA SIDE OF THE ISLAND. NO SIGNIFICANT NEW TRENDS EMERGED FROM THESE ELECTIONS BUT THE GOVERNING PANGU-PPP COALITION HAS LOST TWO SEATS. THESE TWO SEATS, PLUS THE DEFECTION OF A NUMBER OF UNITED PARTY MEMBERS TO IAMBAKEY OKUK'S PEOPLES UNITED FRONT (PUF) DURING THE MAY PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, MAKES THE PUF-PAPUA BESENA COALITION THE SECOND LARGEST BLOC IN PARLIAMENT, WITH 23 SEATS. PANGU, WITH 42, REMAINS THE LARGEST BUT ONE INCAPABLE OF CONTROLLING THE GOVERNMENT ALONE.
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